

# RUMINANT NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY 2026



@howellsvets



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www.howellsvets.co.uk

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York Road, Easingwold YO61 3EB

## WHAT'S ON

Join us for a pie supper and topical farm discussions at the Gavel Café, Thirsk Auction Mart



Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 6:30-9pm: **Fantastic Forage**

Lizzie Relph BVSc MRCVS  
Cattle and sheep farmers

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 6:30-9pm:

**Highway To Health**

Alasdair Ross BVM BVS MRCVS

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January

**Lambing For Beginners**

Trainer: Ellie Button Sheep Clients

Howells Veterinary  
Services, Roxby  
Business Park,  
Easingwold, YO61 3EF

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

**Lambing For Beginners**

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## SHEEP METABOLIC PROFILES



As lambing creeps towards us, it's important to assess how are ewes are doing. Pre-lambing blood tests can be used to adjust the diet to meet their needs. Using a metabolic profile, we can assess their energy status, protein levels, minerals, and trace elements to ensure the ewes are in tip top condition before lambing. Ideally this is done 3 – 6 weeks before lambing is due to start, as it is close enough to be representative of the ewes' nutrition status, but far enough off to adjust the diet as needed. We sample a mixture of twins and triplets as these animals will be under the most metabolic strain. Those sampled should be an average representation of the flock.

If you don't scan, select sheep across age, and body condition score to get a balanced sample. To make the most of the results, we collect information on the current diet, including forage analysis, mineral supplementation, worming and vaccination history.

Speak to our experienced team of farm vets to learn more about pre-lambing nutritional assessment.



# VET'S VIEWPOINT



Sophie Lofthouse  
BVM, BVS, BVMedSci  
(Hons) MRCVS

It's been a very rewarding and busy few months for me since starting at Howells in August. I graduated from Nottingham in July of this year and have since thrown myself head-first into mixed vet life. From colics to castrations, prolapses to pigs, I have learned so much in my first few months in practice. Getting out on farm in my Duster and spending time putting my teaching into practice has been brilliant. I've really appreciated the support from the farmers I've met so far. I look forward to meeting a lot more of you over Spring-time! I've heard it's very busy, so I'll make sure to always have a flask of coffee in the car!

## PRACTICE NEWS

### **Congratulations to Jade and Laura from farm dispensary at becoming registered animal medicines advisors (RAMAS)**

Jade Charlton and Laura Crosby have both recently passed their exams to become AMTRA registered Farm SQP's. This is an excellent achievement for both and further strengthens the farm dispensary team in providing advice to our farming community on parasite control and other products

*Becoming an SQP has opened a lot of new paths in helping customers with their needs and advising for the best health and welfare for their animals. Offering in house FEC's leads to pin pointing which worms have been detected and the level of burden that is present to refine the wormer options, whilst factoring in the time of year and personal requirements. The re checking option is also highly important for finding possible resistance issues. The ongoing CPD is something we are really looking forward to continue gaining knowledge.*



## DISPENSARY UPDATE- Getting ready for Lambing Season

It's lambing time and preparation is paramount to ensure a smooth and successful time on the farm. Gathering the right supplies can make all the difference during lambing and our expert team have created our lambing list of items we think would be helpful for pre-lambing, lambing and young lambs once they are born.

If you would like a list, contact us today.

Our team are here to provide you with advice, please call

**01347 823678** option 2.



*Independent and proudly supporting our farming community for over 30 years*